

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1913.

THE NEW CANDIDATE FOR THE ATTORNEY-GENERALSHIP.

Floyd W. King, of Clifton Forge, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the office of Attorney-General in the primary to be held on August 5. The announcement of his decision yesterday met with deep satisfaction on the part of those who believe that the best and ablest men should offer for public office. He is the type of man sorely needed in Virginia politics; he possesses fine capacity for public service. The Times-Dispatch sides with neither candidate for the attorney-generalship when, without criticizing in any way the incumbent, it welcomes a man of such mold as Mr. King into the political arena.

The new aspirant for the portfolio of the State Department of Justice has had valuable experience in public affairs, but to the practice of law he has devoted by far the greater part of his life. For fourteen years a member of the bar, he has been counsel in much important litigation in his district, in the State and in other States. He is a cogent advocate, a sound reasoner and a strong and resourceful defender of his positions. Before coming to the bar he taught school for three years, and served for three and one-half years as school superintendent for Alleghany County, a position which he filled with exceptional efficiency. The experience gained in this field would serve him in good stead should he become Attorney-General, for that office is a member of the State Board of Education and is its legal adviser.

As a member of the Senate of Virginia for four years, Mr. King, while modest and unassuming, distinguished himself as a staunch supporter of enlightened and progressive legislation. He was the author of constructive measures in the interest of schools and school teachers, in protection of labor and in the improvement of the tax system. He introduced in his last session of service an excellent State tax commission bill which, after amendment, became law. He never wasted the time of the Senate with useless utterances; he spoke only when he had something to say. He aligned himself with those who were fighting for a fairer and wiser government. He was receptive to new and modern ideas; he believed that the lot of the people was susceptible of betterment. He was a constructive force in lawmaking.

CONTROLLING THE WEATHER.

If President Wilson really wants to please the country, he should appoint as chief of the Weather Bureau, a man wise enough, not only to forecast the kind of weather we are going to have, but also to make the kind we want. This business of letting the weather dictate what we do and enlightening people shall do has gone far enough. The weather needs revision. It is foolish to have inaugurations spoiled, crops scorched, towns flooded and milk soured by irresponsible "highs" and "lows" wandering round the country at their own sweet will. More seriously, the devastation and loss of life in the Middle West within the past few weeks suggests that science might well be turned to a serious and extensive investigation of some means of directing the tremendous forces of nature in safer lines.

Such a proposal would have once seemed merely delirious. It would have been regarded as an attack on divine laws. But to moderns, it appears neither impossible nor sacrilegious. The fluctuations of temperature and winds, certainly have natural causes. Save for the effect of the sun and the movements of the earth, there are causes are terrestrial and superficial. It is not visionary to believe that they can be discovered, and perhaps controlled. Already certain steps have been taken in this direction. The complete conquering of the earth, terminating with the achievements at the poles, should enable us to plot out the general problem. There is no longer any region about whose climatic and meteorological phenomena we are absolutely ignorant.

In a few years aviation has done much to bring knowledge of the air and its currents and laws. Aerial navigation will enable us to mount into high altitudes at will and investigate various conditions of pressure and temperature. No finer ambition could be conceived than the devotion of scientists to the study of this field. The wireless will make instant communication of globe facts from all parts of the globe very easy.

Even the fluctuations and vagaries of the electric current so recorded may help our study. International co-operation, with the establishment of a general weather bureau, would surely pay, even if only for surer forecasting. Radio-chemistry and the instruments of precision now at hand may be expected to throw light on the question. The influence of forests, drainage

and ocean currents is already measurable well understood.

From the economic standpoint nothing would so add to the world's wealth as to be able to control rain and wind. From the living standpoint nothing would add more to safety and pleasure. Denatured weather might take away a bit of romance from life, but there would be splendid compensations.

MONEY FOR RICHMOND COLLEGE.

The people of Richmond have a deep and vital interest in the growth and future of Richmond College. So firmly do they believe in the need for a large and successful college to complete the educational advantages of the community, that when the institution needed some \$350,000 to make up a \$500,000 endowment fund, of which the rest was given contingently by the General Education Board, local subscriptions amounted to almost one-third of the required sum. Now that only another week remains for the payment of such subscriptions as have not yet been turned over to the fund, we trust that those who have neglected to fulfill their pledges will let their promised generosity take the practical and necessary form of a check.

By Monday evening, April 1, all gifts must be returned in order to reap the full benefits of the General Education Board's offer. The amount needed to secure these benefits has been fully pledged, but a small part of it still remains unpaid. The prompt discharge of this obligation should be both a duty and a pleasure to the men and women who are impressed with the opportunity here offered for large and lasting public service.

Almost as by magic has Richmond gained a greater institution for spreading education and culture. Several of the principal buildings have been erected, and if all the plans of the trustees meet with no handicap or delay, by September, 1914, we will rejoice in a new and magnificently equipped school. The young men and women of Richmond and the entire State will be given access to an education as excellent as is offered in any city. The comparatively low fees, and the large number of scholarships available for ambitious students, will make Richmond College almost a public institution, and certainly add to our school system the crowning capstone. The pride of those who have made success possible, and of those whose generosity has enabled them to supply a great need, will be shared by the entire community.

In the name of learning, and of the city, and of the coming generation, we urge the speedy consummation of this inspiring project. Within the week, we trust that the entire amount will be forthcoming, and that the future of Richmond College will be assured.

THE PRESIDENT AT THE CAPITOL.

The President's room in the Capitol is intended for the President's use. If it is not, why is it there? It has been reserved for him from time immemorial. The fact that other Presidents have rarely occupied it is all the more reason to justify President Wilson's decision to use it often. There is no statute of limitations to prevent him from utilizing it as his office whenever he chooses. If he desires to come to his Capitol room to confer with members of the House and Senate, there can be no valid objection to his course.

There are narrow critics who profess to see in the President's purpose to come to his room in the Capitol a menace to the independence of the legislative department of the government. He is termed a meddler because he has the courage to use what is set aside for his use; he is charged with an attempt to exert undue influence on members of Congress in favor of administration measures and against bills which would cross his purposes. He is held up as a would-be dictator, because he wishes to transact a part of the public business at the office set apart for his occupancy instead of in the building intended and built for his residence.

Such criticism is stuff and nonsense. There is nothing to fear. No detriment to the republic will ensue. In every State in the Union the office of the Governor is in the same building where the "lawmaking body meets. The continuity of the offices of the executive and legislative branches of the State government is not regarded as a source of possible encroachment of the former department on the latter. "Yet, except that the Federal jurisdiction covers a larger territory, the cases are exactly parallel." The Virginian-Pilot points out. "The arrangement is one for convenience, conducive to harmony between the different agencies of administration and tends to economy of time in the communications necessary between them. We should be pleased to have told us why a rule which has proved so satisfactory in the States as to be universally observed should be considered to contain such possibilities of evil if applied to the President?"

The President is the direct representative of the whole American people. Senators represent States and Representatives districts, but the President represents the people as a whole, because he and the Vice-President are the only officials elected by all the people. Moreover, he is the leader of his party. If he goes to the Capitol regularly, he will be more accessible to the other representatives of his party and of the people. The public business will be facilitated if the President is closer to the mills that grind out national legislation. The people look to him as the leader of the party they put into power to see to it that the measures to which that party is pledged are enacted; if there is failure, he and his party are each held to blame, and each exonerated from power.

President Wilson will not overstep the letter or the spirit of the constitutional limitations which hedge about his office if he goes to the Capitol. No encroachment of the executive department upon the legislative department of the government would exist. The President would but assume the authority and responsibility which vest in him as the representative of the whole people.

It is encouraging, therefore, that we are even making mistakes in the effort to understand the problem. But we must also realize that almost without warning we have come upon the very central questions of life. In these investigations are bound together the economic problem, the woman movement, the vice crusade, and the sex question. No half-truth charging of quixotic reform will solve these mysteries, and if we are bent on solving them we must go all the way through. It is a good thing that in the press and public life we have laid aside prudery and sham for frankness and idealism. It will be better when we come to the splendid nakedness of truth. When we face the fact that the extinction of the passion that misguided produces vice, means the extinction of the race, and that both men and women answer to the same law, and when we remember that our faith is fixed in a monogamous ideal that makes this natural law serve society as a whole, we can trust with Emerson that when the half-gods go, the gods arrive.

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HALF-TRUTHS AND WHOLE.

The question of vice and wages has brought out a lot of half-truth, and much half-baked philosophy and sociology. The somewhat superficial American people, brought face to face with the two main forces of human life, self-preservation and race-preservation, in one issue, is blundering and fumbling like a child before some vast and dim machine. We do not remember seeing in all the columns of words a paragraph that shot home to the white of the mark. Partial causes of vice are charged with the whole score, and temporary remedies for some of its phases are hailed as lasting solutions. It is strange that the race can neither face its own motives, or its own future, with unblinking honesty.

But in the present gropings with the ultimate laws of the race, there is reason for profound hope. The freedom, frankness, sincerity and brave idealism manifested in this attack upon the problem of the centuries is a wonderful and noble sign. It is good to strip for action. It is good to face the cold and silent facts. It is good to seek the truth, instead of foolishly pretending that lies are truth, and that if we do not notice vice, it does not exist. The half-truths are better than hypocrisy, for we must come to the half-truths on the way to the whole.

It is a fine thing for a whole nation to discuss what will never be helped by silence. Neither gravity nor human passion cease because we bar them from our consideration. The race in collision with both these laws meets with accidents. Knowledge alone can prevent such accidents.

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PARCELS POST AND 1-CENT POSTAGE.

In the eyes of the American Banker, considering the wonderful development of the parcels post in so short a time, still the wonder grows that this government did not adopt the system years ago, as a revenue measure if for no other reason.

That contemporary notes that during February a total of nearly 50,000,000 packages was handled, of which aggregate Chicago furnished 5,167,000; New York, 4,102,000; and Boston, 1,326,000. The business in other large cities was proportional, as rated on those lines of trade to which the parcels post facilities appeal especially.

The February showing, it is further set forth, was a gain of nearly 40 per cent over January, and it is now certain that this increase from month to month, it is confidently asserted, "will continue until the parcel post business will reach astonishing proportions." In the light of the known figures and the outlook, the Banker sees no earthly reason why the parcels post should not yield a very large surplus revenue to the government. Nor do we.

Moreover, we see no earthly reason why it should not open the way for early adoption of 1-cent local letter postage.

The surplus revenue from the parcels post, there is no reason to question, would more than cover any transient deficit due to putting reduction in letter postage into operation, and there is every ground for believing that in a very short while, if not almost immediately, the 1-cent postage system would add to the surplus income.

A STATE MARKET COMMISSION.

New ideas for the benefit of the people keep coming from Wisconsin. Governor McGovern has requested the Legislature of that State to enact a law creating a State market commission. In a number of directions such a body would promote agriculture and make for the development of the natural resources of the State. The proposed commission would combine the duties of the existing dairy and food commissions, the State Board of Immigration and the State Board of Agriculture; it would instruct by correspondence and bulletins and distribute information useful to farmers. Possibly its most important function will be the establishment of city markets and the bringing closer together of city consumers and country producers.

Such a commission, if composed of able men, could do much for the good of any State. If it succeeds in Wisconsin in bringing the producer and consumer of farm products into such contact as will result in reducing the high cost of distribution, it will breed a like commission in every other State. Without public co-operation, it can accomplish nothing, but if the consumers will support this movement for the elimination of the middleman, waste will be avoided and the cost of living lowered. The experiment will command national attention.

An advertisement claims for a certain powder that it put the co's in feet, but it's much more important for a grip-ridden nation for the Spelling Board to take the "ugh" out of co.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

According to the Experts, Our standing army's on the blink, our navy is about to sink. The ranks are filled with green-horns who do not know how to fight. We may be wiped out any hour by some aggressive foreign power. 'Tis hardly safe to go to bed and close your eyes at night. Our soldiers don't know how to shoot. Our cities, full of golden loot, would fall to any peevish realm, a very easy prey. That's what our fighting experts claim, who think they know the army game. But still there's not a foreign power that seems to think that way.

Our fighting force is but a joke. The hardened cynics love to poke their sarcastic shafts at it and get their names in print. The Nicaragua army could overrun our country if it would. And kidnap Woodrow Wilson quick and walk off with the mint. They say we have no coast defense to speak of, in the present tense. If any one should start to shoot, we'd merely have to dance. 'Twould be the softest sort of cinch to grab this country, every inch. But still there's no foreign power that wants to take a chance.

The spirit of our troops is damp. They couldn't lick a postage stamp; They do not love their country much and do not care to fight. They're suffering from frigid feet. They can beat nothing but retreat.

The armament is fossilized and discipline's a fright. Our battleships are out of date, the guns are in a fearful state. There are no cooling stations we can safely call our own. We couldn't fight a one-round bout, we're simply all in, down and out. But still the powers seem quite content to let us well alone.

According to Uncle Abner, All men are born free and equal, but some of them get married. A waitress asked Anse Frisby what he would have to eat, and after looking in the restaurant kitchen Anse said he guessed he would take three hard-boiled eggs, a coconut and a couple of bananas. Anse was willing to take anything but a chance.

There ain't much use in arguing with a man who is suffering from inflammatory religion. Elmer Jones is sufferin' something fierce from heart trouble, and the only thing he is doin' for it is to send her a bunch of violets every day. Somewhere in this road land there may be a parlor car porter that doesn't accept money, but if so he is not workin' at his trade at present.

Among the things we never see any more are those good old-fashioned sleeve elastics. The Old Time Spring Hat, Grandma used to wear a bonnet With but very little on it. Not a single peacock feather Flopped or fluttered in the weather. The birds, or their descendants rather, Nor the hanging curtain border, Ostlich plumes that cost full twenty Were not then so very plenty. Stuffed flamingoes, embezzled parrots, Turnips, rutabagas, carrots, Grape and apple, and a couple of bananas, Were not used as decorations, Grandma's hat did not disguise her. You could always recognize her, So we dedicate this sonnet To the modest little bonnet.

Each succeeding generation Makes us love grandma's creation. Women's hats keep growing bigger, And they cut more of a figure. Loved ones' faces, all concealing, Not an eye or nose revealing. Alas can't pick his wife or cousin On the street out of a dozen. He is very oft mistaken. And his nerves are badly shaken When he elevates his lady. And she glares until to him it Seems to be about the limit. Wife's new hat has too much on it, Ah, for that old grandma bonnet!

Voice of the People

What is Man's Destiny? To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir:—Why is there life? For what purpose is the human race placed on the earth? Is it all just one vast mysterious maze, or is there some underlying purpose which will be revealed in the course of time? Is the human race only to endure for an age and pass away forever, as is prophesied in Revelation? If so, the creation or formulation of the human race appears to be only wasted energy. Why make anything which is doomed to destruction unless it is capable of accomplishing something prior to its destruction?

Is the human race, then, a chance development, a growth of nature or a Divine occurrence? Will its passing away be a glorious passage to a higher spiritual life or a retrogression to the ape or monkey, according to the principle of reversion to type? The application of this principle to the animal world is illustrated by Darwin as follows: "Collect a flock of tame pigeons, distinguished by all the infinite ornamentalations of their race. They are of all kinds, of every shade of color."

Abe Martin



It seems like 'th less a feller makes 'em more like wife wants 't wear white in man's decreasing are limit a sign of the approach of the end of the experiment? If man has a definite work to do, why shorten his life? Let him live long and leave his work well done.

THE SNAKE AND TURTLE FIGHT



This is not a picture of an imaginary battle. It is simply a striking presentation of a scientific fact.

The great, monstrous serpent, CONSUMPTION, encircles the entire globe upon which we live.

And that monster is now attacked by the calm and cold-blooded turtle, in the hands of science. Consumption kills more victims than war, poisonous serpents and dangerous wild animals combined. It is the greatest cause of death on earth—excepting poverty, which kills nine-tenths of the people before their lives should have ended.

A very interesting fight, this snake and turtle fight.

They are placed on an uninhabited island and allowed to fly off wild into the woods. They found a colony there, and after the lapse of many years the owner returns to the spot. A remarkable change has taken place. The birds, or their descendants rather, have all become changed into the same color. The black and white, the striped, the spotted and the ringed are all metamorphosed into one—a dark slaty blue. It is as if the original bird, the far remote ancestor of all doves, had been blue.

In the plant world the same principle is also shown to be true. "A garden is planted, let us say, with strawberries and roses, and for a number of years is left alone. In process of time it will run to waste. But it does not mean that the plants will really waste away, but that they will change into something else, and as it invariably appears, into something worse; the one case, namely, into the small wild strawberries of the woods, and in the other into the primitive dog rose of the hedges." Why should man, who depends for his very existence upon nature, prove an exception to the laws of nature?

According to Darwin there are three possibilities of life open to all living organisms—balance, evolution and degeneration. The first denotes the persistence of life along a level path, affected neither by evil nor good. This state of equilibrium, although it holds true universally in the inorganic world, is unknown in the world of life. The human race has undoubtedly gone through a wonderful process of evolution. Are we still in an evolutionary stage, or have we begun the backward trail? If we are still progressing what is the ultimate goal of this process of evolution? Surely it cannot be another heaven here on earth. We must either continue on to an entrance into a higher life or revert to primitive man and the ape, or fall into that drab possibility of life—balance.

If the human race has a divine origin, it must exist for some purpose. Is it only a delicate experiment of the Creator? This great race, with an inborn tendency towards degeneration, is struggling against this awful fatality ever confronting it. What is the object of this experiment? How long will it last? What will become of the residue when the result is obtained? Is man's decreasing are limit a sign of the approach of the end of the experiment? If man has a definite work to do, why shorten his life? Let him live long and leave his work well done.

At the belief of all Christians that a certain One came into the world that mankind might see and believe. If it were ordained that they should believe, then why should it not be necessary that they believe now? Surely there is need of some manifestation in this age of skepticism, something convincing to satisfy doubting mankind. Indeed, there is much to be asked and still more to be answered. W. A. CALLAWAY. Blacksburg, Va.

S. P. C. A. Too Ready to Kill! To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The writer has long been a member of the S. P. C. A. and highly approves of teaching and enforcing the doctrine of kindness and mercy to dumb creatures, not only for the bene-

fit of the animals, but also for the humanizing and ennobling effect on the characters of the people who practice it.

But the agent of this society is much too ready to kill, especially if the subject is a dog. The absurd and untrue reports of rabies, which the newspapers disseminate in their desire for a sensation, are to blame for the unreasoning fear which most people feel for a dog if there is the least departure from the normal in his actions. Genuine rabies is the rarest of all diseases, and the writer very much doubts if there has ever been a case in Richmond.

The dog being the highest in intelligence of all animals, is, therefore, the most nervous, and is very easily excited. A great many young dogs are subject to fits when teething and at maturity, and this is the time when the ignorant policeman and "agent" get their victims. To the ignorant person, a dog with a fit is a fearful object; he whistles round and round, or rushes along, his jaws clamping, which causes the saliva to froth, his eyes sometimes bleeding, in this state he is often blind, and has not the power to attack any one even if he desired to do so, and he is as harmless as a human being with epilepsy or convulsions. Most people having a dog affected thus, instead of putting him in a hot bath, with cold water or ice to the head, will call in the "agent," who promptly and without examination shoots it. The next day newspapers have in large headlines, "Agent Shoots a Mad Dog." Now the writer objects to the S. P. C. A. helping the spread of ignorance, as the dog in this case is the victim of the newspaper articles and the advertisements of some local Pasture "humanity." If the agent of the society is truly trying to carry out the aim of the society in preventing cruelty to animals, he should inform himself and be able to recognize a case of fits in a dog and so be able to allay the fears of the ignorant owner by advising some simple remedy or the calling in of a veterinarian. A great many people very soon get tired of doing for an animal if it becomes sick or troublesome and are only too glad to get rid of the trouble by sending for the evidence submitted, and instructed to render their verdict according to the evidence submitted, found the "agent" who promptly comes and without question or examination, puts an end to its life.

FLORENCE S. AUGUST, Richmond.

Alms Got Cheap Sympathy. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Having heard and read many harsh criticisms in regard to the Governor refusing to commute the Alvens, I wish to say that I fail to see why Governor Mann should be censured for clemency. In each case, after hearing the evidence, and instructed to render their verdict according to the evidence submitted, found the "agent" who promptly comes and without question or examination, puts an end to its life.

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fund was raised to employ counsel for the purpose of carrying the case to the Supreme Court less than \$1,000 was subscribed, averaging about 7-12 cents apiece, which, in my opinion, and from a financial point of view, makes it look like very cheap sympathy.

I would like to say a few words in regard to the manner in which Clerk Good has been hounded, if not persecuted. It looks to me as if the Alvens had to have some excuse for shooting up the court, and tried to make Clerk "moonshine" to perjure charge, from made or rumored about him, and I think it's about time that the Alvens sympathizers either make good their charges or find a hole and crawl in it, and pull the hole in after them. R. C. S.

Mercy for Alvens.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Suppose the Alvens guilty, and their sentence just, yet may not the State discriminate as to whom she will give a new chance for a good life? Is there not a difference between a hard-crime if released, and the man who, though mistaken, commits a rash act from love and loyalty to his clansmen? And what of the young life sacrificed to the technical law, but drawn into his crime by others, really capable of being made an honorable and honest citizen, useful to the State? Is life so cheap? Alvens forgiven, grateful for clemency, or Alvens vengeful and forever bitter?

And what of ministers of the gospel who on Sunday preach forgiveness of sins, though as scarlet, and on Monday throw their influence to the old, hard regime, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth"—a stone for the fallen brother?

Ordinary decency would seem to dictate silence at least, whatever their opinion of the deserts of these men. What hypocrisy! Preachers of the mercy of God, with no real mercy in their own hearts. "How shall thou hope for mercy, rendering none?" CHRISTIAN. Richmond, March 21, 1913.

Pity Governor Mann. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—If it is an insult to the Governor to try and keep Virginia from committing murder, the people of my county hope he may be insulted many times. If you could take a vote on the Alvens question to-day in my county nine out of ten would set them free, but a judge was killed, and a judge had it to decide. God pity him! H. WEST. Old Church, Hanover County, Va.

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